

## REMARKS

Claims 1-26 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

## § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,052,468 to Hillhouse (hereafter "Hillhouse").

Before undertaking a discussion regarding the substance of the Office's rejections, the following discussion of Hillhouse is included in order to assist the Office in appreciating the patentable distinctions between these references and the claimed subject matter in this application.

## The Hillhouse Reference

Hillhouse discloses systems and methods for improving portability of secure encryption key data files by *re-securing* key data files according to different security processes for mobility. Specifically, Hillhouse teaches a method of generating secure key databases that is portable to systems having different configurations. Hillhouse also teaches a *method of selecting a user authentication method from a plurality of user authorization methods for use in securing* a key data file. Finally, Hillhouse teaches a method of *securing* a key database with multiple security methods.

In accordance with Hillhouse's teachings, a key data file comprises a secured cryptographic key which can be secured again according to an authentication method selected from a plurality of available authentication

1 methods available to a user on a particular system. Additionally, the key can be  
2 ***re-secured*** over and over again based on selected available authentication  
3 methods. The key data is then accessible only via the authentication method(s)  
4 used. Thus, the systems and methods in Hillhouse ***control access to key data files***  
5 ***by securing a cryptographic key to that file.***

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7 **Applicant's Disclosure**

8 Applicant's disclosure provides methods and arrangements for controlling  
9 access to resources in a computing environment. These methods and  
10 arrangements identify authentication mechanism(s) (and/or characteristics thereof)  
11 used in verifying a user to subsequently operating security mechanisms. Thus,  
12 additional control is provided by differentiating user requests based on this  
13 ***additional information***. For example, in a computer capable of supporting  
14 multiple authentication mechanisms, at least one embodiment ***generates an***  
15 ***operating system representation*** of at least one ***identity indicator*** associated with  
16 at least one authentication mechanism, and subsequently ***controls access*** (to at  
17 least one resource) ***based on the operating system representation***. In certain  
18 implementations, at least one security identifier that identifies the authentication  
19 mechanism in some way can be generated. In other implementations, the  
20 operating system representation is compared to at least one access control list  
21 (with at least one access control entry). Here, for example, the access control  
22 entry may specify ***whether the user authenticated (by the authentication***  
23 ***mechanism) is permitted access to the resource.***

1                   **Claims Rejected over Hillhouse under § 102**

2                   **Claim 1** has been amended, and as amended recites a method for use in a  
3 computer capable of supporting multiple authentication mechanisms comprising  
4 [added language appears in the bold italics]:

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- 6                   • generating at least one indicator ***that identifies a user, and is*** associated with and ***identifies*** at least one authentication mechanism that has been used to authenticate ***the user***; and
  - 7                   • controlling ***the user's*** access to at least one resource based on the indicator.
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10                  In making the rejection, the Office argues that Hillhouse discloses  
11 generating at least one indicator associated with and identifying at least one authentication mechanism that has been used to authenticate a user (citing column  
12 8 lines 1-15, column 8, lines 27-43, and column 8 line 65 to column 9 line 6) and controlling access to at least one resource based on the indicator (citing column 5  
13 lines 32-38, and column 8 lines 35-43).

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15                  In order to clarify the recited subject matter, this claim has been amended to  
16 clarify generating at least one indicator ***that identifies a user, and is*** associated with and ***identifies*** at least one authentication mechanism ***that has been used to***  
17 ***authenticate the user, and controlling the user's access to at least one resource***  
18 ***based on the indicator.*** Support for this amendment can be found in the  
19 Applicant's specification on page 7. Of course, this example from the specification  
20 is but one example of the subject matter that is embodied by this claim and in no  
21 way limits claim 1. In light of the current amendments, Applicant respectfully  
22 traverses the Office's rejections.

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1       The excerpt cited by the Office at column 8, lines 27-43, merely discusses a  
2 method in which code two bytes in length *indicates the type of authentication*  
3 *method* (i.e., fingerprint, password, etc.) that must be used in order to gain access  
4 to a key file comprising a cryptographic key. The indicator does not indicate that  
5 the user has been authenticated. The excerpt from column 8 is reproduced below:

6       According to one embodiment the data indicative of a user authorization  
7 method comprises a sequence of bytes including a length for indicating, one  
8 of the data length and the number of authentication methods employed to  
9 secure the key data *and an indicator of a user authentication method*  
10 *comprising a number, for example 2 bytes, unique to each available*  
11 *method.* Typically two bytes are used to identify the method selected  
12 thereby allowing for over 65,000 different user authentication methods.  
*This permits the implementation of variations on user authentication*  
*methods to increase the difficulty of breaking the security of the key data.*

13      Furthermore, the excerpt cited by the Office at column 8 lines 1-15 merely  
14 teaches that one user may be authenticated and then subsequently access a key and  
15 then select an authentication method that must be used by a second user in order to  
16 access the same key. The second user may only access the key after being  
17 authenticated by the method chosen by the first user. This excerpt is reproduced  
18 below for the convenience of the Office:

19      In accordance with the invention, a method is provided to provide secure  
20 access to encrypted data by each of a plurality of people. Accordingly, *a*  
21 *user determines to secure a key data file* comprising a secured  
22 cryptographic key. *The user is authenticated* and the cryptographic key is  
23 accessed. *The user selects an authentication method* in the form of a  
24 biometric authentication method such as a fingerprint, a voiceprint, a face, a  
25 palm print, a retinal scan, and so forth; a password; or a key. The  
authentication method is selected from a plurality of available  
authentication methods. *Another user is authenticated according to the*  
*selected method and the secured cryptographic key is secured according*  
*to that method.* The secured cryptographic key is stored in a second other  
key data file with data relating to the selected authorization method.

1       Alternatively, the key data is stored in a same file along with the previous  
2       secure key data. This allows for user authentication of any of a plurality of  
3       individuals providing access to same key data.

4       Thus, while there appears to be some type of indicator that indicates the  
5       type of authentication method that must be used by the second user to access the  
6       key, there is no mention whatsoever in this excerpt of an indicator that ***that***  
7       ***identifies a user, and is associated with and identifies*** at least one authentication  
8       mechanism ***that has been used to authenticate the user, and controlling the***  
9       ***user's access to at least one resource based on the indicator.***

10      Furthermore, the excerpt cited by the Office at column 8 line 65 – column 9  
11      line 6 merely states that there are many types of authorization methods that each  
12      have a unique identifier. This excerpt is reproduced below for the convenience of  
13      the Office:

14      Of course, ***many different fingerprint analysis methods may be employed, each having a unique authorization method identifier.*** Therefore,  
15      provision of a fingerprint is not indicative of the biometric authorization  
16      method ***whereas the authorization method is indicative of necessary user input.*** Similarly, many methods of extracting a key from a password are  
17      known and, according to the present invention, those implemented each  
18      have a unique authorization method identifier.

19      Again, this excerpt does not mention an indicator ***that identifies a user, and is associated with and identifies*** at least one authentication mechanism ***that has been used to authenticate the user.***

20      In light of the current amendments, the excerpts cited by the Office neither  
21      disclose nor suggest the subject matter of this claim. Accordingly, for at least this  
22      reason, this claim is allowable.

1       **Claims 2-10** depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an  
2       allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
3       features which, in combination with those recited in claim 1, are neither shown nor  
4       suggested by the reference of record.

5       **Claim 11** has been amended, and as amended recites a computer-readable  
6       medium for use in a device capable of supporting multiple authentication  
7       mechanisms, the computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
8       instructions for performing acts comprising [added language appears in the bold  
9       italics]:

- 10       • producing at least one indicator that ***identifies a user, and*** uniquely  
11       identifies at least one authentication mechanism supported by the  
12       device ***that has been used to authenticate the user;*** and  
13       • causing the device to selectively control ***the user's*** access to at least  
14       one resource operatively coupled to the device based at least in part  
on the indicator.

15       In making the rejection of claim 11, the Office uses much the same  
16       argument as used in making out a rejection of claim 1. The Applicant has made  
17       similar amendments in claim 11 as made in claim 1. In light of the current  
18       amendments, and for the same reasons as discussed by the Applicant with regards  
19       to claim 1, the Applicant respectfully traverses the Office's rejections.  
20       Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

21       **Claims 12-20** depend from claim 11 and are allowable as depending from  
22       an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
23       features which, in combination with those recited in claim 11, are neither shown  
24       nor suggested by the reference of record.

1           **Claim 21** has been amended, and as amended recites an apparatus  
2 comprising [added language appears in the bold italics]:

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- 4           • at least one authentication mechanism configured to generate at least  
one indicator that *identifies a user, and* identifies the authentication  
mechanism *that has been used to authenticate the user;*
  - 5           • an access control list;
  - 6           • at least one access controlled resource; and
  - 7           • logic operatively configured to compare the indicator with the access  
control list and selectively control *the user's* access to the resource  
based on the indicator.

9           In making the rejection of claim 21, the Office uses much the same  
10 argument as used in making out a rejection of claim 1. The Applicant has made  
11 similar amendments in claim 21 as made in claim 1. In light of the current  
12 amendments, and for the same reasons as discussed by the Applicant with regards  
13 to claim 1, the Applicant respectfully traverses the Office's rejections.  
14 Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

15           **Claims 22-26** depend from claim 21 and are allowable as depending from  
16 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited  
17 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 21, are neither shown  
18 nor suggested by the reference of record.

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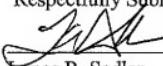
20           Conclusion

21           All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant  
22 requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next  
23 anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability,  
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1      Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an  
2      interview.  
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5      Dated: 2/15/06

Respectfully Submitted,

6      By: 

7      Lance R. Sadler  
8      Reg. No. 38,605  
9      (509) 324-9256

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